

ENERGY POLICY

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEREBY RESOLVES AND DECLARES THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF THE COUNTY TO:

1. Continually improve the efficient use of all energy resources in order to insure a future with a secure and sustainable energy supply. Fuels availability and the need to improve air quality may limit energy use of fossil fuels.
2. Seek creative ways that the public sector can take advantage of cost-saving opportunities presented by utility restructuring, including undertaking an aggregated cooperative competitive procurement of electricity supply at the earliest opportunity practicable; look to increase the amount of clean and renewable energy purchased in a competitive marketplace; and serve as an education and information resource about restructuring for the County's residents and businesses.
3. Integrate energy consumption and sustainability considerations into land use, development and transportation planning as a means of evaluating the impact of growth and development on energy consumption and the environment in the County.
4. Increase energy efficiency in County facilities and vehicles; work with the private sector to encourage enhanced energy efficiency for commercial buildings, dwellings and vehicles.
5. Promote increased use of alternative-fueled vehicles in the County fleet, and in private fleets that operate in the County.
6. Integrate requirements for greater energy efficiency into commercial and residential building codes and effect adequate energy code enforcement.
7. Promote the efficient use of energy through example, education, and legislation.
8. Support government funding for projects that promote public and multi-person modes of transportation as one means of conserving energy, alleviating traffic congestion and reducing harmful emissions. Use legislative, regulatory and fiscal policies to discourage use of single-occupancy vehicles and encourage use of mass transit.
9. Educate the citizens of Montgomery County to the importance of more efficient energy consumption and the direct linkages between energy usage and a healthy environment.
10. Seek intergovernmental cooperation in developing effective, cost-efficient methods to meet the requirements of federal energy and environmental legislation.
11. Encourage the reduction of per capita energy consumption in Montgomery County from 1995 base levels by 20% by the year 2010; support further per capita reductions in energy consumption thereafter as deemed practicable and appropriate.
12. Recognize and reward individual initiative and collective efforts that contribute to the County's energy/environmental policy goals.
13. Montgomery County agencies, as an element of an aggregated cooperative competitive procurement of electric supply, will make best efforts to ensure that a portion of the electricity purchased in a competitive marketplace be derived from clean renewable energy generation sources such that:

- a. at least 5% of the County's total annual electric load is supplied by clean renewable energy generated power; the County Council, in conjunction with the County Executive, may, at some future date, alter or adjust the minimum percentage of clean renewable energy required in electricity procurements;
 - b. the clean renewable energy generation purchased will be produced within the air shed affecting Montgomery County and within a geographic area in sufficient proximity to Montgomery County to provide local air quality benefits to the County;
 - c. the clean renewable energy generation shall include power that is generated using zero-emissions new renewable energy resources, as defined by the "Green-e" Renewable Electricity Certification Program, such as solar energy, wind energy, and geothermal energy, that meets the eligibility requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership program;
 - d. in the case of wind energy, the generation will come from a wind power facility that has been examined and approved by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), or equivalent entities in other states, in regards to potential bird impacts, and where DNR or its equivalent has found that the impacts are likely to be low. The facility will need to remain in compliance with any conditions and mitigation obligations required by the Maryland Public Service Commission or its equivalent in other states. For those wind facilities constructed after the effective date of this resolution, the facilities must conduct studies as established by the guidelines of the National Wind Coordinating Committee for protecting birds and other wildlife, to the satisfaction of the DNR or its equivalent in other states.
 - e. the purchase of clean renewable energy generated power will begin at the earliest date practicable, and will continue through future electricity procurements;
14. Montgomery County will develop an "Energy Wise Offices" program to encourage County employees to reduce energy consumption through behavioral modification.
- a. The "Energy Wise Offices" program will consist of outreach and education for County government employees, to be conducted by the Department of Environmental Protection. In order to evaluate program effectiveness and promote "ownership" of energy costs by individual departments, each department and/or facility will be provided with annual reports of energy usage and energy costs.
 - b. The program will include such actions as turning off lights in unoccupied areas, fully enabling energy saving features on computers and office equipment, shutting down equipment that is not in use overnight or over weekends, and using appropriately sized fleet vehicles.
15. As a pilot program, in order to gather information and support efforts to ensure that County buildings are designed, constructed and maintained in as energy efficient a manner as possible, the County will procure the services of an energy auditor to assess the status of energy efficiency of three County buildings which are large energy consumers. The audits will also identify potential cost effective energy saving improvements. The results of the audits will be reported to the County Council. The County Council may, at some future date, expand the number of buildings subject to audit.